R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

An abstract has been added, as required by the Examiner. The abstract is based on the abstract set forth on the cover sheet of International Publication No. WO 99/21073.

It is respectfully submitted that the new abstract be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled, and new claims 16-25 have been added.

Claim 16 substantially corresponds to the subject matter of now canceled claim 3 written in independent form.

Claim 17 has been added depending from claim 16 to recite the feature of the present invention described in the specification at page 7, lines 14-19, whereby the checking device comprises update means for updating the display coordinates location, which determines where the check image is displayed, such that the location at which the check image is displayed is altered.

Claim 18 has been added depending from claim 17 to recite the feature of the present invention described in the specification at page 7, lines 6-19, whereby when the operator does not designate a point on the display screen on which the check image is displayed, the display location of the check image is periodically altered (as time advances).

Claim 19 has been added depending from claim 16 to recite the features of the present invention described in the specification at page 6, lines 13-15 and lines 25-28, and at page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 8, whereby the registered data storage means stores a display size of the check image, the display means displays the check image in a predetermined display size, and the comparison means compares (i) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the designated point detected by the detection means and the display size of the check image with (ii) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the registered checking point and the display size of the check image.

Claim 20 has been added depending from claim 16 to recite the feature of the present invention shown in Figs. 3A and 3B and described in the specification at page 6, lines 8-18, whereby a respective check image and a corresponding registered checking point set to the check image are prepared for each one of a plurality of programs, and are stored in the image storage means and in the registered data storage means according to the

corresponding one of the plurality of programs, and when any of the plurality of programs is activated, the corresponding check image is selected for display, and checking of the designated point is performed based on the registered checking point corresponding to the activated program.

Claim 21 is a computer program claim corresponding to new independent claim 16.

Claim 22 substantially corresponds to now canceled claim 4 written in independent form.

Claims 23 and 24 correspond to the subject matter of claims 17 and 18 depending from claim 22, wherein the display size of the check image is altered instead of the display location, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 7, lines 6-19.

And claim 25 is a computer program claim corresponding to new independent claim 22.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 16-25 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,559,961 ("Blonder"); and claims 10-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Blonder and Windows 95 for Dummies. These

rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 16-25.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 16 (and in corresponding new claim 21), a checking device is provided which comprises, in particular, registered data storage means for storing location data of a registered checking point set to the check image, the location data representing relative coordinates of the checking point with respect to an origin of the check image; and detection means for detecting relative coordinates of the designated point on the check image displayed on the display screen based on the preset location of the display coordinates, from the coordinates attained by the attaining means.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 16, the determination of whether the point designated by an operator with respect to a check image is located on a pre-registered point is based on coordinates which are relative to the display location of the check image. And significantly, the determination is not based on whether the designated point is located on a point determined based on coordinates with respect to the display screen on which the check image is displayed. Thus, the display location of the check image on the display screen is determined as the base, and relative coordinates of the pre-registered point are determined

based on the position of the check image. The point designated by the operator is checked based on its position relative to the registered coordinates on the displayed check image. Therefore, regardless of where on the display screen the base display location of the check image is set, the point designated by the operator can be accurately detected. Thus, checking the operator can securely be performed.

In addition, according to the present invention recited in new independent claim 22 (and corresponding new claim 25), the checking device comprises, in particular, comparison means for comparing (i) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the designated point detected by the detection means and the display size of the check image with (ii) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the registered checking point and the display size of the check image.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 22 (and corresponding new claim 25), regardless of the display size of the check image, the point designated by the operator can be accurately detected. Thus, checking the operator can securely be performed.

According to the present invention as recited in new claims 17 and 18 or 23 and 24, moreover, the display location or the display size of the check image to be altered in order to enhance the security of the checking process. In this

connection, it is noted that if the same point is designated again and again by the operator because the display location of the check image is fixed on the display screen, any other person might perceive the point that should be designated. However, if the check image position or size is altered as according to the present invention as recited in new claims 17 and 18 or 23 and 24, the position on the display screen which must be designated changes with the position/size of the check image. Thus, the same point on the display screen is not repeatedly designated, and the security of the checking process is enhanced.

By contrast, Blonder merely discloses checking a password by checking if designated points are within designated regions with respect to the display on which the image is displayed and not based on relative coordinates of the image itself. That is, according to Blonder, the display location of the check image is fixed on the display. Therefore, in the cited reference, the designated location is checked to determine merely whether it corresponds to a pre-registered location set to the check image.

Accordingly, in Blonder, the location designated by the operator is always the same. Therefore, even a person who does not know the location that should be designated can easily learn the location while peeping at the display.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention, checking is performed based on relative coordinates with respect

to the check image (and not based on coordinates on the display screen itself. Clearly, the password entry technique of the claimed present invention is much more secure than that of Blonder.

It is respectfully submitted that Blonder does not at all disclose, teach or suggest that the checking may be performed based on relative coordinates of the registered checking points and the relative coordinates of the designated points or that the checking may be performed based on the ratios of the respective coordinates to the display size of the check image.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claims 16, 21, 22 and 25, as well as new claims 17-20, 23 and 24 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Blonder, taken singly or in combination with Windows 95 for Dummies, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: IDS AND PRIORITY DOCUMENT

The Patent Office communication dated January 23, 2004 is respectfully acknowledged. As indicated in said communication, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449

to indicate that the references listed therein have been considered and made of record.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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